



GOLD BUTTERFLY **CAMPGROUND/TRAILHEAD FIELD REVIEW**

Where: Gold Butterfly
Project Area

Date: October 30, 2017

Gold-Butterfly Project
Gold Creek Campground/Trailhead and Willow Creek Trailhead Field Review

Attendees: Deb Gale, Greg Wasileski, Erica Strayer, and Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen members Fred Weisbecker and Taylor Orr

Topics of Discussion:

Gold Creek Campground Improvement Objectives

- Thin out trees within campground to increase visibility from main road
- Improve campground road and camping spurs
- Improve dispersed site within campground and make accessible campsite
- Improve overall quality of campground to make more appealing to recreationists

Discussion

To avoid user conflicts, we want to separate the uses between the campground and trailhead, therefore, the proposed trailhead will be located about 0.2 mile up the road and not within the campground. Gold Creek Trail 43 takes off from the campground, and currently, people using that trail park in the campground. A sign will be installed near the campground road to direct trail users to park at the trailhead up the road.

Proposed Action in Gold Butterfly

Gold Creek Trailhead Relocation:

- Construct horse-friendly trailhead and camp approximately 0.2 mile east of Gold Creek Campground
- Construct a few horse camp units, with minimal infrastructure (table, fire ring, hitching rails- will be relocated from Gold Creek CG to new horse camp/trailhead)
- Install information board and trail signs
- Encourage users to practice Leave No Trace principles (do not harden a trail to the creek; users can bring water with them for stock)
- Construct a small passenger vehicle parking area to separate stock and non-stock users
- Install trailhead directional signs near Gold Creek CG
- Ensure turning radius is large enough to accommodate trailers coming from parking units back onto Forest Road 312



Discussion

Trailhead will be relocated to a flat, open area on the north side of road 312, approximately 0.2 mile from Gold Creek C.G.; trailhead will consist of a few pull-through spurs with picnic tables and fire rings and a passenger vehicle parking area to accommodate a few vehicles; a trail to the creek for watering stock will not be constructed; information board and hitching rails will be installed; an interpretive panel portraying the CCC construction of the road will be installed; 0.2 mile of road will be improved; the road beyond the trailhead will be closed off with barrier rocks. It's fairly open so we will need to monitor for any motorized travel beyond the closure

Forest Road 312:

- Improve 0.2 mile of road from Gold Creek CG to proposed new trailhead/horse camp
- Decommission FRD 312; two culverts are proposed for removal and culverts will be replaced with fords

Willow Creek Trailhead Relocation:

- Recreationists with trailers currently park in pull-outs on the side of FDR 969
- Improve and widen the existing pull-out and level out the pull-out on the inside of the road
- Provide enough room for stock users to safely unload and tie up horse to trailers to stage and be far enough off of the road
- Widen a pull-out to accommodate a few passenger vehicles
- Install information board and trail signs
- Install trailhead approach signs on main FRD 969

Discussion

The trailhead will be relocated to the inside of the road on the large switchback on Forest Road 969/969A junction; main concern is that there is enough space to safely accommodate 2 trailers and for stock to be tied to the trailer and be fully off the road. May be possible to achieve the desired space if the culvert is extended, fill placed over the culvert and the parking area pushed north toward the 969 road fill. The parking area would be on top of the culvert. Another concern is getting water run-off from the 969 road directed alongside the road in a hardened ditch that would be diverted into a filter zone to reduce run-off and sediment into Willow Creek. A small parking area in front of barrier rocks would accommodate a couple passenger vehicles. Reviewed the preliminary design that Autumn Ela prepared. Information board and trailhead approach signs will be installed; there are large barrier rocks at the current trailhead that can be used to help close the road at the new trailhead location

Misc. Discussions

- Trail 321 is very rocky and is not suitable for beginner horse riders. BBCHM is interested in the maintenance of the trail.
- BCH members were supportive of the Gold Creek trailhead and Willow Creek trailhead proposals